

Message Text

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LONDON FOR RAY SEITZ

E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: FORBES MAGAZINE

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, FORBES MAGAZINE (WITH DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE) FINALLY SUCCEEDED SEPTEMBER 14 IN OBTAINING VISITORS VISA FROM NIGERIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON FOR LONDON-BASED CORRESPONDENT JAMES FLANAGAN. FORBES OFFICE IN WASHINGTON ASSUMES HE WILL LEAVE LONDON FOR LAGOS IN A FEW DAYS AS SOON AS HE RECEIVES PASSPORT AND COMPLETES PRESENT WRITING ASSIGNMENT. THE MAGAZINE EXPECTS TO PUBLISH ARTICLE ON NIGERIA IS APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH.

2. COMMENT: RELAXATION OF DIPLOMATIC TRAVEL BAN, RETURN OF AID OFFICER PROTY'S PASSPORT, AND NOW FLANAGAN'S VISA REMOVE THREE OF OUR CURRENT PROBLEMS WITH THE FMG. IT IS TEMPTING TO CONCLUDE THAT (1) THE NIGERIANS ARE TRYING
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IN SMALL WAYS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS AND/OR (2) THE FMG

IS GROWING SLIGHTLY MORE RELAXED ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF
FOREIGNERS IN NIGERIA. ASSUME YOU WILL REPORT IF AND WHEN
EITHER OF THESE BECOMES DISTINCT TREND. FLANAGAN PRE-
SUMABLY ARRIVING LAGOS WITHOUT PRECONCEPTIONS OF THE
ECONOMIC SITUATION HE PLANS TO COVER. IT IS NOT HARD
TO IMAGINE THAT SOME OF HIS AMERICAN CONTACTS (E.G. OIL
COMPANIES AND BANKS) WILL LEAD HIM TO WRITE ARTICLE UN-
FLATTERING TO FMG ECONOMIC POLICIES. WE HAVE NOT YET
DISCUSSED SUBSTANCE WITH FORBES MAGAZINE, BUT WASHINGTON-
BASED REPORTER IS PLANNING TO VISIT AF/W LATER THIS MONTH.
ROBINSON

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